

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
UPPER CANADA INSTITUTION  
FOR  
**The Deaf and Dumb and for the Blind,**  
For the Year 1864.

TO

|                                                       |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| WM. TYRELL, Esq.,                                     | Warden of York and Peel. |
| WM. LESLIE, "                                         | Wellington.              |
| ROBT. MILLER, "                                       | Halton.                  |
| WM. MERCER WILSON, Esq., "                            | Norfolk.                 |
| T. R. FERGUSON, Esq., M. P. P.,                       | Simcoe.                  |
| J. H. THOMPSON, "                                     | Warden Ontario.          |
| ALEXANDER BROWN, Esq., "                              | Wentworth.               |
|                                                       | Middlesex.               |
| WM. PIERS, "                                          | Oxford.                  |
| R. R. SMITH, "                                        | Lenark.                  |
| SHERIFF HALL, President Auxiliary Society, Peterboro. |                          |

GENTLEMEN,—In presenting you with my Sixth Annual Report, I feel I have a pleasing duty to perform—a duty which loudly calls forth from me a hearty acknowledgment of the goodness and mercy of God, for the remarkable advancement in prosperity and usefulness of the Institution during the past year.

The number of pupils in the Toronto School, under the late Superintendent, at the close of the year 1863, was fourteen; indeed the largest number in attendance since the opening of the School, in June, 1868, was only twenty-four, while during the past year there were fifty-three pupils in attendance, forty-seven of whom are deaf mutes and six blind. This large increase, added to the equally pleasing fact that we are free from debt, are, of themselves, convincing proofs that our Institution is in a very prosperous condition.

### THE BUILDINGS.

The buildings which we occupy, known as the "Florence Hotel," contain fifty-four rooms, all of which, with the exception of six small bed-rooms in the wing, have been thoroughly repaired at my own expense; the boys doing the carpentry, glazing, whitewashing, &c. This very commodious building, facilitates the separation of the sexes, and classification of the pupils. The means of escape in case of fire are all that the most cautiously timid could desire; two stairways leading to verandahs in front and rear, giving easy means of speedy escape in case of danger. The consumption of wood to heat so large a building forms quite an item in the yearly expenses. The play ground is too limited to allow sufficient exercise for the pupils. To remedy this, they walk out in the country three times a week, and skate daily on a rink made at the rear of the house.

### HEALTH OF PUPILS.

The precautionary measures taken to preserve the health of the pupils—cleanliness, open-air exercise, early rising, plenty of house-work, and above all, a liberal scale of dietary, have fully realized our most sanguine expectations, as is evident from the pleasing fact, that with the exception of eruption in the skin in one case, we have not had, since our arrival in Hamilton, a single case of sickness.

### WORK PERFORMED BY PUPILS.

#### THE GIRLS

Have made all the bed-ticks, sheets, pillow-cases, window-blinds, mended boys' clothes, and, assisted by a cook, and on two days of the week a laundress, done the whole work of the establishment before and after school hours.

#### THE BOYS

Have done, in a workmanlike manner, one thousand, three hundred and eighty square yards of whitewashing, converted two thousand eight hundred feet of timber into school-room, dining-room, kitchen, and store-room furniture; made a new roof over kitchen, containing eighteen square yards; repaired and shingled roof over school-room, nine and one half square yards, repaired fifty window-sashes and twenty-three blinds, and put in eighty-two panes of glass. They have done the work for which a contract was put in for \$600. The cost to me was about \$70 for material. The habits of industry thus promoted, and the economy observed, will be productive of lasting benefits to the pupils. I may fairly ascribe our

success in carrying this industrial spirit into practical operation to the mutual harmony and love subsisting between teachers and pupils, the social intercourse between whom, calls forth from every observant visitor appreciative approval. There has not been in the establishment a single ill-behaved boy, nor an ill-dispositioned girl. One girl, however, I was reluctantly obliged to discharge as a dangerous idiot.

#### SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION PURSUED.

In my Fourth Annual Report, I referred to the system of instruction pursued in the States of America, quoting an extract from the preface of the 3rd Book of Lessons for the Deaf and Dumb, compiled by Dr. Peet, who writes thus :—"It is not what the pupil merely commits to memory of an evening, and nearly or quite forgets it before he has *practical occasion to use it*, but what he *well remembers*, and can *recall* and apply at his need, that is the *true measure of his progress*." From this we may infer that the pupils of the New York Institution memorize language and reproduce it. I would say that such a system does not approximate with the order and method nature has designed for the speaking child to acquire his mother tongue. We aim in the Hamilton School to assimilate the process used in teaching language to the deaf-mute—in his case a language addressed to the eye—to the process by which the little child, possessed of the faculties of hearing and of speech, acquires language when addressed to the ear.

To memorize language and reproduce it in other combinations tend to stultify the intellect, and expose either deaf-mute or illiterate speaking person to the laughter of others, for example : A Clergyman at an Irish wedding requested the bridegroom "to *extinguish* the candle" Soon afterwards Paddy asked his bride "to *extinguish* the cat." A celebrated French theologian, dining with a gentleman in Edinburgh, was asked to partake of *pickled* salmon, and on enquiry as to the meaning of the word "*pickle*," was told it meant *preserved*. On the following Sunday evening, when occupying the pulpit in Dr. Chalmer's church, and while offering the usual prayer, asked the Lord "to long *pickle* Dr. Chalmers for his congregation." It is one thing to have a fluency of words to express our thoughts and feelings, and quite another to have *clearly defined ideas attached to them*. The following extract forms the first five lines of a letter received by me from a deaf-mute young man who had been 10 years at school, and had been engaged as a teacher of deaf-mutes not 40 miles from this city :

"April 7, 1864.

"DEAR SIR,— If some days ago I had not been at a loss when asked to see you next Saturday. P.M., I would not have answered in the position, but have begged you to excuse me from it."

I would give the letter in full, did not the writer request me "to keep this private as long as you may live."

I give a specimen of what I call the *natural system* followed in our School. The writer, a girl sixteen years of age, and deaf from early infancy, was not three years under instruction.

HOMER, August 7th, 1864.

DEAR TEACHER,—I write to you again. You did not answer. I got a letter from my papa that I am going home on 17th of August. You must write to me very soon. We went to Niagara Falls. I wondered to see it. I was very much afraid of Falls. It was very nice—I never saw it before, I would like to live there. Miss B—— came from Niagara and see me, I talked to her, I was very glad to see her. I will get photographs taken to-day or to-morrow. I have 14 photographs in my Album. Peter and Doctor E——, I am proud of them. I am going and visit Miss P——, to day. I often take a walk with Peter and see the Cemetery every Sunday. We are not living with Peter, he is clerking store in St. Catherine's he comes and see us every Sunday. I will go home and you will send my trunk to me next Monday. Let me know it will go to Guelph Station next Monday. My Uncle, Aunt and Cousins do not wish me to go home, they are very sorry. Is Minnie well? and did she go home, tell Hattie and Miss Cecilia give me their photographs. I would like to see them. How are you? tell them to give my love to them. Did some deaf and dumb pupils write to you. My Cousin Willie is vory, very sick. I am very sorry. He is sleeping in bed now. Did Mrs McGann and her children go and see their mother. When will you go and visit your friends. Did you go and see the Falls. I send my love to you all. Write to me to-day.

Good-bye.

MISS E. MCGANN,  
Toronto.

MAGGIE SMITH,  
Homer P.O.

Mr. Jackson, M.P.P., is well acquainted with the girl who wrote the above. He can certify that she was not three years under instruction. Mr. McFarlane, M.P.P. for Perth, may certify that he entered into a long and lively conversation with one of the female pupils of this Institution, three and a half years at school, who had also been deaf from birth, and that her answers to various questions put by him, exhibited powers of discrimination and grammatical accuracy equal, if not superior to girls of her age, and her time at school, and in possession of all their faculties.

I should not have particularized these cases were I not informed that the late Superintendent produced a written statement from Dr. Peet, to certain members of the Executive Government to the effect that I was not qualified for the position which, for nearly seven years, I have occupied. In my first Annual Report, Rev. Dr. McCaul writes thus: "Whilst referring to the Instruction which has been given, your Committee think it due to Mr. McGann to state their satisfaction with the results of his teaching, evincing as they do, a progress at once sound and rapid."

In the second Annual Report, the then Secretary (the late Rev. Thomas Smith Kennedy,) testifies as follows, "The Committee

desire to record their continued satisfaction with the solid progress which has been made by the pupils; and which reflects great credit on Mr. McGann, and the Assistant Teachers. The late visit of their Secretary, to England, has enabled them to compare this progress with that of the pupils of institutions long established in the United Kingdom, and the result of that comparison is highly favourable to the system of instruction adopted in this school. The Superintendent in his report writes that "the progress made by the pupils generally, is highly satisfactory, and reflects great credit on the Master and Assistant Teachers."

In the third Annual Report, it is written: "The Committee have much pleasure in expressing their continued satisfaction with the results of the teaching of the Deaf and Dumb by Mr. McGann: the mental exercises (not mere efforts of memory) performed daily by the pupils, being such as would be highly creditable to children possessing all their faculties." Lady Monk, who honoured my School with a visit, witnessed an examination of my pupils, and stated to Dr. McCaul, who was present on this occasion, "that she (Lady Monk) visited the Dublin, London, and Paris Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb, and had not witnessed in these Institutions such an excellent display of mental ability as that exhibited by my pupils." The Superintendent testifies as follows in his fourth Annual Report:—"It is a proof of the soundness of the instruction given by Mr. McGann that in no case do the pupils use set phrases but express themselves just as an ordinary child educated as far as they are, would do."

It must, indeed, be particularly painful to me to know that the letter to which I refer was shown to those in whose hands were placed the power to establish a Provincial Institution and to whom my previous efforts, which have proved so effectual in reaching the dark and untutored souls of this unfortunate class, were known and appreciated.

#### THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

Since the opening of this School there has not been more than five pupils under instruction. Energetic measures, however, are in operation to increase its usefulness. It is earnestly hoped that the Government will see the necessity of giving a grant of \$800 for the benefit of the Blind, in addition to the \$1,600 apportioned for the Deaf and Dumb. It is a well-known fact, that we have among the blind a host of illustrious names distinguished in science or literature—men before whose great and mighty genius the eminent literary characters of the day must veil their heads with conscious inferiority. The School for the Blind, although very small, is expensive. Mr. Terrill, the very efficient teacher of the class, spends three hours daily in teaching reading, writing, geography, globes, history, geography and arithmetic while a



competent instructor spends one hour each day in teaching music. Mr. Terrill is a scholar of University College.

#### LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

I am happy to be able to state that the "Library for the Blind, of C. W." now contains 175 volumes of books on history, geography, biography, hymns, &c., and the Old and New Testament complete, with a large assortment of maps. To Mr. Moon, Brighton, England, the celebrated philanthropist, we are greatly indebted for this munificent gift. It may be well to observe that Mr. Moon lost his sight at the age of twenty-two, since when he has devoted himself with a singleness of purpose truly admirable, to ameliorate the condition of those who labor under a like infirmity with himself. He has invented an embossed type for the Blind, so perfect in its form, and uniform in its arrangement, that the blind man or woman of seventy years of age may, with ease, feel its characters, and learn to read. Mr. Moon travelled over the continent of Europe, establishing Libraries for the Blind in its principal Cities. "Moon's type" is now printed in fifty different languages. "The Book and its mission," a valuable little work in pamphlet form, published in London, and sold at the "Bible and Tract Depository," Toronto, gives many encouraging accounts of the blessings conferred upon the Blind through the instrumentality of our esteemed christian brother. May the effulgent light of the Sun of Righteousness enable him to give his fellows in misfortune an opportunity of feeling their way in the Bible, to "behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world."

#### A FEW WORDS TO CLERGYMEN AND WARDENS OF COUNTIES' COUNCIL.

The great source of human ideas is, the mutual intercourse of society, effected through the medium of sound. When this wondrous organ of sensation fails to convey the expression of ideas to the mind, we must arrive at the conclusion that the acquisition of language, under such circumstances, is utterly impossible, and where there is no language there is no religion. A Clergyman or Warden of a County who wilfully neglects to give the Deaf and Dumb the same educational advantages which their more favoured brethren possess, is fearfully culpable in the sight of God by ignoring the solemn responsibility that rests upon him. "To pass them by on the other side" without pouring oil and wine into the deep wounds which a violation of the laws of nature inflicted, is actually consigning them, by cruel thoughtlessness, to a condition of hopeless heathenism and of intellectual and moral helplessness. Without education they are destitute of the necessary restraint and safeguards

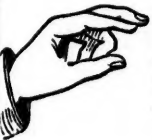
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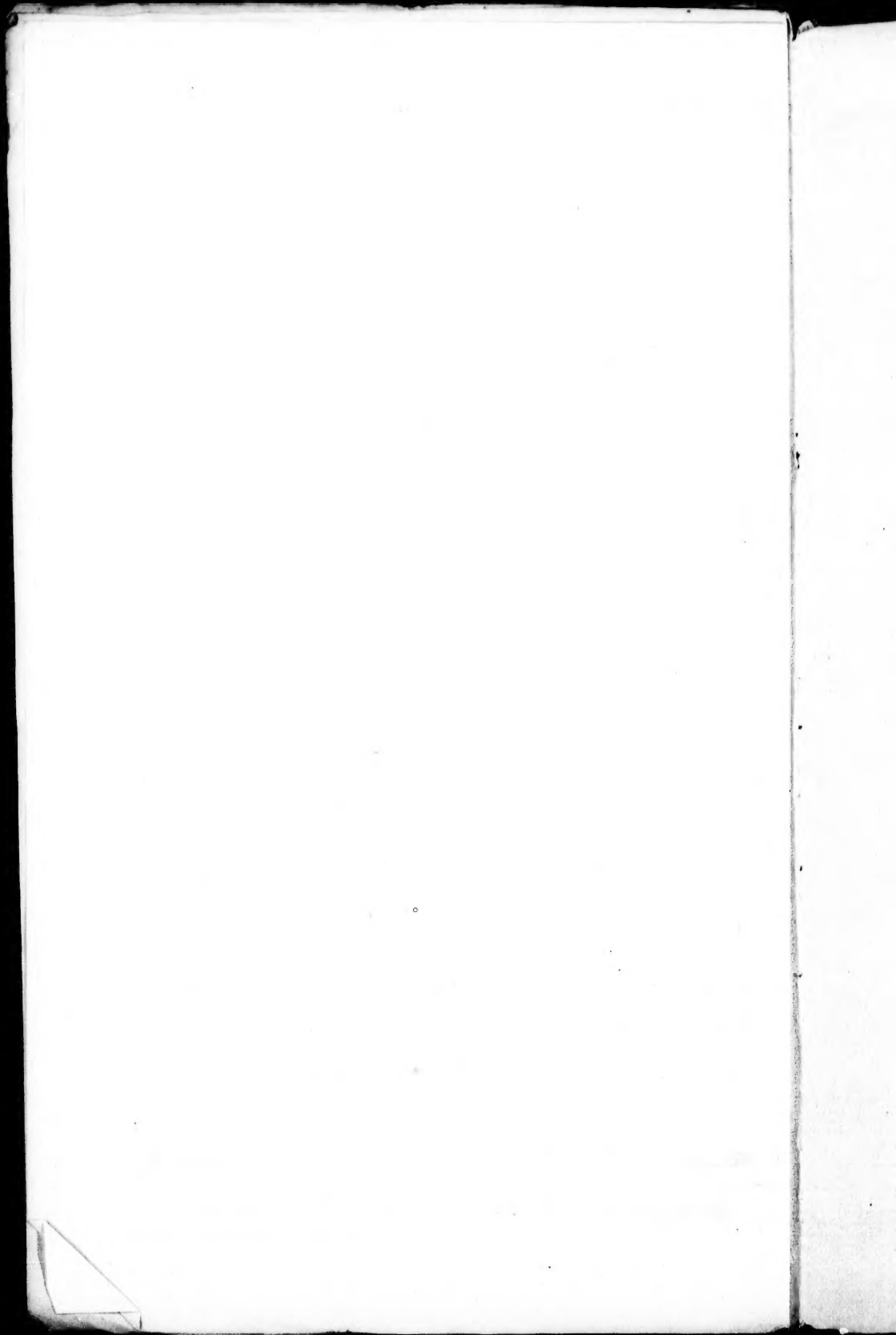
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# DEAF & DUMB ALPHABET,

FORMED BY THE LEFT HAND.

|                                                                                              |                                                                                              |                                                                                              |                                                                                              |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A a a<br>   | B b b<br>   | C c c<br>   | D d d<br>   | E e e<br>   |
| F f f<br>   | G g g<br>   | H h h<br>   | I i i<br>   | J j j<br>   |
| K k k<br>   | L l l<br>   | M m m<br>   | N n n<br>   | O o o<br>   |
| P p p<br>  | Q q q<br>  | R r r<br>  | S s s<br>  | T t t<br>  |
| U u u<br> | V v v<br> | W w w<br> | X x x<br> | Y y y<br> |
| Z z z<br> | & & &<br> | good<br>  | bad<br>   | equal<br> |

HAMILTON INSTITUTION,  
KING STREET, January, 1865.





of morality and religion, without which they cannot exercise moral control nor resistance to the seductions and temptations which beset them. In fact, the uneducated deaf-mute, is, in point of moral and religious training, placed in a more disadvantageous position than the ignorant Savage from the wilds of Africa or Polynesia. Ministers of religion are apparently absorbed with its evangelical operations, among the heathen *abroad*, and by consequence, have been slow to recognise the claims of the mute heathen at *home*. The Christian Church may be soon aroused to its duty by the hand of Him who hath said "I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance." Wardens of Counties who have hitherto turned a deaf ear to our entreaty for help, may yet feel the weight of the responsibility which rests upon them and acknowledge the necessity of turning the Councils, over which they preside, to make ample provision for the indigent mutes and blind of their respective Counties till the Confederation scheme be settled. I may here observe that the Executive Government, on the 11th of June last, adopted my school as the nucleus of the "U. C. Institution, Hamilton," and appointed a Superintendent from whom I received instructions to prepare for the removal of my pupils to this city. The Government having at this particular time been busily engaged on the Confederation question, failed to sanction the removal, and I was reluctantly obliged by circumstances, over which I had no control, to leave a City from whose inhabitants I received such marked kindness, and take up my residence among strangers. But He who looks down with pity upon the afflicted portion of the human family, has raised up good friends for the noble work in which I am engaged. I cannot, indeed, find words sufficiently strong to express my gratitude for the substantial services rendered the Institution by two gentlemen of this city. Had I remained in Toronto I would have experienced inconvenience of no ordinary kind from the want of sufficient accommodation for so large a school, and the means to furnish it. I have never taken a step that has afforded me so much satisfaction as the removal of my school to this city. The enthusiasm of the citizens in promoting educational projects, and the practical sympathy evinced by them for the children of misfortune educated in their midst, say plainly that justice will be done them. I am happy to bear testimony to the efficiency and zeal of Mr. James Watson, the excellent teacher of the Deaf and Dumb. His class now number fourteen pupils, of from one week to two months' standing.

The sum of \$1600 has been appropriated by the Government to pay teachers' salaries, &c., but it has been withheld upon grounds with which I am unacquainted.

To the Wardens and Councillors of Halton and Wentworth, I feel deeply indebted for a grant of \$100 each. May I express an ardent hope that my old friends of York and Peel, Wellington,

Halton, and Peterboro' may continue their support. I am happy to state that by strict economy and good management, we are able to maintain and educate eleven indigent orphan mutes out of the profits realized by the Boarding Department. Besides this, I supply from that source fuel, lighting, and all incidental expenses. I herewith annex an abstract account of the Income and Expenditure of the Institution for the year ending 31st of December, 1864:—

INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB,  
AND FOR THE BLIND.

| RECEIPTS.                                                                              | EXPENDITURE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To amount received for board<br>of pupils..... \$2523 00<br>" Collections ..... 521 67 | By-Rent and Insurance. .... \$ 208 50<br>" Provisions..... 1645 76<br>" Clothing ..... 67 00<br>" Medicine..... 4 50<br>" Fuel ..... 350 00<br>" Lighting ..... 30 00<br>" Postage, &c..... 25 75<br>" Provisions stored.. .... 150 00<br>" Lumber..... 38 00<br>" Cash advanced to teachers 400 00<br>" Servant's wages... .. 52 00<br>" Cash on hand... .. 75 00 |
| <u>\$3,044 67</u>                                                                      | <u>\$3,044 67</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| We owe for furniture .. .. . \$950 00                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Value of furniture made by pupils for the Institution .. . 143 50                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Total value of furniture... ..                                                         | <u>\$1093 50</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

Should the Government remit the \$1600 granted for the "U. C. Institution," it would be sufficient to pay teachers' salaries for one-half year, amounting to \$850, and also pay \$750 for the new furniture purchased for the Institution, in place of that sold by the late Superintendent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. B. MCGANN,

*Principal.*

